

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING  
Block Island School  
February 4, 2015  
7:00 p.m.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Wednesday, February 4, 2015, in the media center of the Block Island School. Chair William Padien called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The following members were present: Elizabeth Connor, Patricia Doyle, William Padien, and Christopher Willi. Ann Hall was not in attendance. Robert Hicks was also present.

William Padien reported that the girls' varsity basketball team won its game this afternoon. Kiley Hall scored 25 points and reached 1001 points for her high school basketball career. Congratulations to Kiley!

**Approval of Solar Engineering RFP**

Mr. Hicks submitted the Request for Proposals he intends to issue to design/build a solar power system at the school. He stated that the state is reissuing the grant and has made some adjustments to take into consideration the construction costs on Block Island. A motion (Padien, Connor) to authorize the superintendent to publish the RFP for the solar power system carried with a vote of 4-0. A meeting was scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, March 5 to award a bid.

**2015-2016 Budget Work Session**

Mr. Hicks reviewed his recommended program expense budget for 2015-16 and touched on each line. The small increase in Central Office is because two retirees will no longer be eligible for health benefits. It does include an increase from 90 to 104 days for the tech specialist for work during the summer. Mr. Hicks increased the number of days for the new superintendent to 90. He also included extra days for the guidance counselor to work on the student schedules over the summer. The maintenance supervisor stipend has been used to partially fund the town's facilities manager. The health care increase will not be known until after our budget is forwarded to the town, but Mr. Hicks included a ten percent increase. The Trust's stabilization funds can be used to offset some of that cost. A notification of intent to retire was received from one teacher. It was suggested that the severance be paid out of this year's funds if possible even though the contract gives us the option to pay it out of next year's budget.

There was a lengthy discussion on whether to phase out the part-time principal next year. Mr. Hick used the part-time principal's salary to cover a portion of the facilities manager and the added days for other areas of support. Elizabeth Connor understands and respects the intention to phase out the part-time principal, but feels it is not in the best interest of the school to eliminate it next year, especially with a new superintendent. There is no guarantee that the town's facilities manager will be in place by July 1 and this could impact the workload of the full-time principal. Patricia Doyle felt that the School Committee made a commitment to the community in phasing out the part-time position. She understands that it is hard to lose something to which we have become accustomed, but the full-time principal will have two years of experience under her belt. Christopher Willi agreed that the intent of the discussion a few

years ago was to phase out the part-time principal, but wanted to know the overwhelming factor that would explain the need for this position. Mr. Hicks feels it is having the extra person to help the school run smoothly, effectively, and efficiently on a day-to-day basis, including the physical plant, classes, and personnel. Mr. Padien was torn, but feels that most of this hinges on whether, and/or when, the town hires a facilities manager. Mr. Hicks suggested a compromise by further reducing the number of days the part-time principal would work, deleting the summer guidance time, and cutting consultant supports in half. He will work on a compromise plan for the next meeting that includes details on the part-time principal's duties, comparative data on administrative ratio to students, and the how the compromise would work within the budget.

### **Adjournment**

A motion (Padien, Connor) at 8:47 p.m. to adjourn carried with a vote of 4-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: March 16, 2015